

Supervisor Romaine Announces Town Wide Crack Down on Unsafe Backyard Pools and Hot Tubs

posted on 4/23/2013 1:59:20 PM

April 23, 2013

Farmingville, NY - Supervisor Ed Romaine has announced that the Town of Brookhaven's Law and Building Departments will begin a town wide crack down on unsafe backyard pools and hot tubs in anticipation of the pre-summer pool opening time. The Supervisor is encouraging residents who own pools or hot tubs to take proper safety measures now to help prevent a water-related tragedy from occurring in their own backyard. During the crack down, pool and hot tub owners who are found to be in violation of the Town's Pool Safety Codes will be ticketed and fined.

"Each year, we are saddened by the news of children drowning in unsafe pools," said Supervisor Romaine, "In most cases, these tragedies could have been prevented if the proper safety measures were taken by the homeowner. My number one priority is to save lives and we can do that by targeting unsafe pools and ticketing violators who are not in compliance with Town Codes."

The Supervisor urges homeowners to inspect their pool and hot tub areas now and correct any violations that currently exist before the summer season begins. He also noted that Brookhaven Town Law and Building Department officials will respond to any complaints about potential violations in the neighborhood. "An unsafe pool or hot tub is a threat to every family that lives nearby, so it's important that people are aware of the danger and report it immediately to the Town," said Supervisor Romaine.

The Town of Brookhaven and New York State building codes include very specific rules and regulations regarding swimming pool and hot tub safety such as pool alarms, secure fencing, anti-entrapment devices, self-closing and self-latching gates. These are not merely suggestions; they are required by everyone who has an above ground or in-ground pool, or hot tub.

A detailed summary of pool and hot tub safety requirements can be found at the New York State Department of State website at www.dos.ny.gov/DCEA/pools.htm .

If any resident knows of any backyard pool or hot tub that is not in compliance with Town codes, call 631-451-TOWN (8696). The Town will take immediate action against violators and keep identities of callers confidential. Visit www.brookhaven.org for more information about pool safety compliance.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

One Independence Hill • Farmingville • NY 11738 • Phone (631) 451-6595 • Fax (631) 451-6258